

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

December 8, 2013 ~ O, the mystery of God's dwelling!

Inviting the mystery

Prelude

Silence

Hymn: "Joyful is the dark" ~ Jennifer Wandersee, flute
v. 1 – ensemble; v. 2 – congregation

***Call to worship**

Leader: Come and welcome one another in the name of Christ!

People: Let us awake to peace!

Leader: Live in harmony and join your voices in song.

People: Yes—let us with one voice glorify God.

Leader: In Christ, we see the confirmation of God's promise:

All: O, the mystery of God's dwelling in our relationships!

***Hymns:** "O come, O come, Emmanuel" #172 HWB, vv. 1, 3, 5, 7
"Come, Thou long expected Jesus" #178 HWB

Engaging the mystery

Reading: Isaiah 11:6-9

Confession and lighting of the Advent Candle

**Response: In this light, we receive forgiveness
knowing that God dwells in our relationships.**

Children's Gathering Song: "Come! Walk in the light" (insert)

Children's Time: "How do we feel God?" ~ Matthew Hendricks

Song: "Gloria, gloria" #204 HWB

Celebrating the mystery

Scripture reading: Romans 15:4-6

Silence

Sermon: "An alternative vision"

Hymn: "When long before time" #25 STJ, vv. 1, 2, 5, 6

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Congregational Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and forever. AMEN

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book

STJ: Sing the Journey

*Please stand if you are able

Offering and Offertory

Announcements (please give in writing to worship leader)

Introduction of guests

***Sending hymn:** "It came upon a midnight clear" #195 HWB, vv. 1, 2, 5

***Benediction**

***Passing the Peace**

***Postlude**

Community Time

10:40 Fellowship time – Narthex (Parents: please assist children in keeping all food and drinks in the fellowship area.)

11:00 Education for all ages. Adult classes:

The UNkingdom of God – podium

Sexuality: God's Gift – balcony

TODAY: Advent 2: ...in our relationships!

Worship leader: Joetta Schlabach

Sermon: Beverly Goines

Song leader: Adam Nafziger

Organ: Jim Kuebelbeck

Ushers: Glenn Geissinger, Cori Skogerboe

Fellowship: volunteer needed

Nursery: Pat Eliason & one volunteer needed

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Beverly Goines. Rev. Goines is a fellow this semester at the Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research at St. John's University. A doctoral candidate at Catholic University in Washington, DC, she is also an assistant pastor at National City Christian Church, a Disciples of Christ congregation.

NEXT SUNDAY: Advent 3: ...in transformation! (Isa 35:1-10; Matt 11:2-11)

Worship leader: Shawn Englund-Helmeke

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Song leader: Anna Gambucci

Piano: Melissa Falb

Ushers: Leah Otto, Rhonda Martin

Fellowship: volunteer needed

Nursery: Matthew Hendricks, Susan Weinlick

Snow: volunteer needed

December 8

Attendance: 79

Local Budget: \$2,572

Weekly amount needed to meet budget: \$4,445

A staffed nursery for toddlers and children up to age 5 is located in the education wing. Please ask an usher if you wish to be guided to the nursery.

Faith Mennonite Church
Pastor: Joetta Schlabach
Ministry Staff: Phil Stoltzfus
Deacons: Thaine Dirks, Shelly Hendricks,
Melissa Hochstetler, Donna Minter, Adam Nafziger
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FMC office hours: December 9-13

Pastor: Wed 11-6, Thurs 10-5. Tuesday Joetta represents Central Plains at the MN Council of Churches board meeting. Friday is a study day.

Ministry Staff: Wed 10-7, Fri 2-5

Email bulletin items by Thursday evening. Bulletin printed Friday afternoon.

Prayer request from Central Plains Conference: Pray for congregations in Central Plains who are seeking pastors, and for the church in Quito, Ecuador, seeking a pastor.

TODAY noon to 5 p.m., downstairs, FMC hosts the **14th Annual Seward Art Crawl**, featuring three artists from our church and other neighborhood artisans: **Kristin Green's** jewelry and paintings, **Dan Leisen's** nature photography and **Mike Okerstrom's** paintings, drums and sculpture.

Advent worship theme and visuals Our worship theme during Advent, "O, the mystery of God's dwelling" is drawn from scripture references to God's presence in our lives. The doll house reminds us that God's presence is often associated with comfort and safety. The "urban landscape" installation reminds us of the chaos and desolation of wilderness. But this too is a place of encounter with God.

Thank you to the Advent worship planning team: Carl & Jill Gerriets, Kathleen Harder, Joetta Schlabach, Donna Stucky, and Cynthia Villegas. Mike Okerstrom has created the visual elements.

Church Meetings and Events (online calendar: www.faithmennonite.org)

December 8 – Seward Art Crawl, fellowship hall

December 10 – Sunday text discussion group, 8:30 a.m., Trotters, SP

December 10 – Worship Commission, 7 p.m., chapel

December 11 – Church Council, 7 p.m., chapel

December 15 – Christmas Program & Cookie Social, 4:30 p.m.

December 18 – Deacon Commission, 11 a.m., chapel

December 18 – Ecumenical Taizé Service, 7 p.m., soup supper, 6 p.m.

Isaiah 11:6-9

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

**They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.**

Romans 15:4-6

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: For the word of God in scripture,
For the word of God within us,
For the word of God among us,

ALL: *Thanks be to God.*

Announcements

Congratulations to Abra, Phil and Cassius Staffin-Wiebe who welcomed **Theia Arline** into their family on Monday, November 25. She weighed 8 lb. 10 oz. and was 20.75 inches long.

Cynthia Miller has created a display of **Advent and Christmas resources that are in our library**. You'll find them on the red and green cloth on the library table. Please borrow and enjoy!

Donna Minter and Bruce Brunner are hosting a **Christmas caroling party** for church friends and neighbors on **Saturday, Dec. 14**, at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome!

Next Sunday, Dec. 15, we will have our annual **Christmas program** at **4:30 p.m., followed by a cookie social**. The service of Lessons & Carols will include participation by the children's Sunday School classes and the adult Advent choir. Please come, invite family and friends, and bring a plate of cookies or Christmas treats to share. The hosting committee is the Nafziger and Skogerboe families.

Post-program/cookie social caroling Folks who would like to do some additional caroling are invited to Terry Gerber's apartment following the cookie social. Carpooling from the church.

Children's Sunday school Christmas giving projects:

- Missions & Service will match the children's time offerings gathered this fall **through December 15** and contribute to **Seward Montessori School for gifts to families needing grocery assistance** during the holiday break.

- **Backpacks & School Supplies for homeless and highly mobile students** in Longfellow schools. A list of items is included in the December FMC Newsletter. A collection box (previously used to collect boots) is located in the fellowship area. These will be collected through Epiphany, Jan. 6.

Faith Mennonite Church delivered **38 lbs of groceries and \$255 to Community Emergency Services** which was a portion of the offering collected at the Nov 26 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service.

FMC will host an **Ecumenical Advent Taizé Prayer Service** on **Wednesday, Dec. 18**, 7 p.m. in the sanctuary, an event which will include youth involvement. An optional simple soup meal will be served at 6 p.m.

Advent Evening Prayer: Creator of the stars of night, come! **Mondays of Advent: Dec. 9, & 16**, 7 p.m. Simple program of seasonal readings, quiet, and music. All are welcome. Sabbath House, 3228 Portland Ave. S, Mpls.